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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
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INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 3428

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DEPT FOR DS/IP/AF, DS/IP/ITA, DS/DSS/OSAC, S/CT, D, P, M, INR,  
CA, AF/S; GABORONE FOR RSO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/15/2017

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [LT](#)

SUBJECT: LESOTHO: EAC CONSIDERS JULY 4 POSTURE, RECENT ATTACKS ON  
GOL OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 82082; MASERU 340

CLASSIFIED BY: Charge d'Affaires a.i. W. Patrick Murphy, CDA  
a.i., EXEC, DOS.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (c), (d)

11. (S) SUMMARY: Charge d'Affaires convened an EAC meeting on  
June 15 to assess security policies and potential threats  
associated with the Embassy's planned official July 4 reception.

The EAC also reviewed the mission's general security posture in  
light of recent attacks on the properties of GOL ministers and a  
leading opposition figure. EAC members concurred that proposed  
measures and host government cooperation is adequate for the  
Independence Day reception. With regard to the recent attacks,  
EAC members, agreeing that there is no information to suggest  
that USG interests are the target of any hostile intentions,  
concluded that no significant changes in post's current  
heightened security posture are required. EAC members  
nonetheless agreed to issue a security notice and a warden  
message to apprise Embassy personnel and local U.S. citizens of  
the recent attacks and to advise caution and vigilance. Post  
would characterize the current political and security climate as  
increasingly tense but relatively stable. END SUMMARY.

12. (S) On Friday June 15, Embassy Maseru's EAC convened to  
review post's security posture for the mission's planned July 4  
reception (ref A) and to review recent developments regarding  
attacks on GOL ministerial residences (ref b and septel).

13. (S) The EAC discussed post plans to host this year's official  
independence day reception at midday on July 4 at a local hotel  
in Maseru. EAC members, including visiting A/RSO, concurred  
that the location offers the best available security arrangement  
with optimal access control points and cooperative hotel  
management. EAC members also reviewed the current threat  
environment and concurred that proposed security measures are  
sufficient to address the threats that exist in Lesotho. Post  
security staff members have already liaised with host government  
police, the Embassy's security contractor, and other security  
officials and received assurances of adequate cooperation for  
the event. Post recently activated the warden system to apprise  
U.S. citizens of the Worldwide Caution. At present, there is no  
threat information available that would require a Warden Message  
specific to the planned July 4 event.

14. (C) The EAC also reviewed recent information regarding the  
June 10 and June 14 attacks by armed gunmen on the residences  
and vehicle of three GOL ministers and the home of the country's  
leading opposition figure, a former GOL minister (ref B and  
septel). EAC members, taking note of information that the GOL  
cabinet met in an emergency session on June 15, concurred that  
these acts of physical intimidation against senior government  
and political leaders are a disconcerting factor in the current  
security environment. The EAC, however, has received no  
information to suggest that USG interests, to include USG  
personnel or U.S. citizens, are the target, directly or  
indirectly, of any hostile intentions. The EAC concluded,  
therefore, that no significant changes in post's current

heightened security posture (which addresses ongoing political uncertainties and the critical crime threat environment) were required. EAC members nonetheless agreed to issue urgently a security notice and a warden message to apprise Embassy personnel and local U.S. citizens of the recent attacks and to advise caution and vigilance.

¶5. (U) Post communication is normal at present. Local PTT, including landline and cellular networks, are functioning. The Embassy switchboard number is (+266) 22 312 666. Duty Officer phone is (+266) 5 888 4035. Principal point of contact for security matters is Wendy Kahler, Acting Post Security Officer, who can be reached on the duty phone after hours.

MURPHY